

Congressman Josh Gottheimer (NJ-05)
August 8th, 2017



Gottheimer Supporting Our Troops - “Stand By Those Who Stand By Us”

H.R. 3219, the defense appropriations bill that passed the House of Representatives in July fully funds the Department of Defense, Department of Veterans Affairs, Military Construction, and other parts of the government for the next year. This bill takes care of our veterans, protects our nation, and ensures our troops are ready for any situation to fight threats from ISIS to Russia.

This bill:

- Requires the President to submit a strategy to defeat Al-Qaeda, the Taliban, and ISIS, and ensures U.S. Special Operations Forces are funded and focused on protecting the U.S., and the world, from terrorist groups in Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, Yemen, and more. Defeating ISIS and fighting terrorism is one of the most important military missions.
- Gives our Armed Forces a much-needed pay raise. The 2.4% increase is largest raise in 8 years.
- Helps address a funding shortage for military readiness. By providing an additional \$1 billion for readiness efforts, our troops will have the necessary equipment and training to be battle ready.
- Keeps our promise to veterans by funding the Department of Veterans Affairs for mental health services, suicide prevention, traumatic brain injury treatment, homeless veterans assistance, cancer research and treatment, and service dogs.
- Takes care of those that sacrificed for us by extending the solvency of the veteran disability compensation programs that serves 4.5 million veterans and their survivors.

H.R. 3219 has specific benefits in New Jersey, helping our military families, veterans, and those called to serve their country by:

- Funding operations and maintenance requirements for every military installation in New Jersey, including \$130 million to support the Armaments Research Development Engineering Center (ARDEC) at Picatinny Arsenal.
- Promoting the Strategic Medical Asset Readiness Training (SMART) partnership that Hackensack Meridian Health and the U.S. Army Reserve recently initiated to train medical personnel for combat.
- Caring for our veterans by funding New Jersey VA Medical Centers, including the new Sussex Community-Based Outpatient Clinic located in Newton. Additionally, the PTSD Clinical Team and Women’s Trauma Recovery Program at the Lyons Campus will receive full funding.
- Offering a lifeline to current and retired service members affected by addiction and providing funding for programs for opioid and addiction treatment and prevention programs at the VA and within DoD.